



Comprehensive Trails Analysis Trails Working Group Meeting

*Thursday, April 13th 2017, 5:30pm - 7:30pm
Rudyard Township Hall*

*Wednesday, April 26th 2017, 6:00pm - 8:00pm
Mathias Township Community Center*



Roll Call

- Over Snow Vehicle
- ATV / ORV
- Motorcycle
- Biking / Snowbiking
- Hiking
- Cross Country Skiing / Snow Shoeing
- Equestrian
- Water Trails
- Mushers



Agenda

- Welcome
- FACA vs Collaboration
- Forest Objectives
- Round Robin / Updates
- Scheduling
- Questions / Public Comments



An Executive Comparison of FACA vs. COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA)

- * Passed in 1972; “Sunshine Laws”
 - * Ensure Federal Agency decisions occur under the daylight of public review
- * FACA is required when an Agency:
 - 1) Establishes, utilizes, controls, or manages...
 - 2) a group with non-federal members...
 - 3) that provides the agency with consensus advice or recommendations.

FACA vs Collaborative Efforts

- ✧ Both programs have a similar objective: to obtain input from others to submit advice to the Forest Service. The difference?
 - ✧ A committee under FACA is formal, structured, mandated and funded by the establishing law
 - ✧ Collaboration is not

Comprehensive Trails Analysis is a Collaborative Effort

Establishing a FACA Committee

- ❁ Committees must have a Charter approved by the Secretary of Agriculture
- ❁ Charters must be renewed every two years
- ❁ Membership must be “vetted” by the White House liaison
- ❁ Membership must be fairly balanced in terms of points of view represented and functions to be performed
- ❁ High expectation for diversity of culture and gender

Meetings — FACA

- ✿ Required to be open to the public. Meetings notices and agendas must be published in the Federal Register
- ✿ Designated Federal Officials (DFOs) must approve all meetings and agendas, and attend meetings
- ✿ Detailed minutes of each meeting must be kept and posted on the web

FACA Lifecycle

FACA Committees can be terminated as soon as:

- ★ Their stated objectives have been accomplished
- ★ The committee's work has become obsolete
- ★ The cost of the committee's operation is excessive in relation to the benefits accruing to the Federal Government.

The goal of collaboration is to build sustained relationships over time.

Developing a Collaborative Effort

- ✿ Utilize positive, enforceable ground rules that reflect collective values and principles
- ✿ Enhance communication through constructive dialogue, debate and deliberation
- ✿ Promote joint problem-solving and creative solutions
- ✿ Promote continuous improvements in process and direction
- ✿ Advance social and civic responsibility

Meetings – Collaborative Effort

- ✿ Requirements based on local needs and social climate
- ✿ Process and structure can differ by location, but should be agreed upon by the group, as part of self established ground-rules
- ✿ Meetings must be transparent and open to all
- ✿ Line Officers need to retain decision authority when involving NFS

Are we subject to FACA?

- ✿ Established by Forest Service? – Yes
- ✿ Non-Federal Members? – Yes
- ✿ Consensus Advice or Recommendations? – No
 - ✱ Seeking Public Input in support of the Forest's Comprehensive Trails Analysis and Comprehensive Trails Plan
 - ✱ Self-Identified Representatives; No Vetting
 - ✱ Facilitate Input from Community Members; not Consensus
 - ✱ Representatives can Change
 - ✱ Not all User Groups selected Representatives
 - ✱ Flexible, Public Meetings
 - ✱ Flexible Outcome

Forest Service Objectives

- Public Feedback on Forest Trails System
 - Coordinated input through self-identified Volunteers
- Sustainable Ideas for Trail Updates
 - Used by FS to develop Comprehensive Trails Plan
 - No specific format required
- Comprehensive Trails Plan that addresses the needs of all Forest Trail User Groups



Forest Service Sideboards

- TWG is not a decision making authority
 - Input will be used to develop Comprehensive Trails Plan (CTP)
 - Projects will be chosen based on sustainability
 - Cost, Partnerships, Environmental Impact, etc.
 - CTP will guide future investments based on forest needs and available resources
- Input must be received by end of Dec. 2017



Initial Forest Service Support

- Public Meetings
 - Introduce Comprehensive Trails Analysis
 - Encourage self-nomination of user group representatives to coordinate input
- Maps of the current Forest Trails System
- Coordinate Meetings for Public Discussion of user ideas for updates to the Forest Trail System
- Other Requests?



Round Robin / Updates



Scheduling





Meeting Recap

- Meeting Notes, Documents, Updates
 - <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/hiawatha/workingtogether>
- East Zone Forest Service Coordinator
 - Kari Vanderheuel, (906) 643-7900 x 112
- West Zone Forest Service Coordinator
 - Brenda Rebitzke, (906) 474-6442 x119





United States Department of Agriculture

Thank You!

Additional Questions, Comments, etc?

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Forest Service
Hiawatha National Forest